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TORONTO'S DEADLY STREETS THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016 | High -7°C/Low -17°C Snow

CITY TIGHTENS LEASH

SALES TAX REVENUE

Province has coal for city's stocking

Finance Minister Charles Sousa is dashing the dreams of municipal politicians hoping for additional provincial money in their stockings this Christmas.

After Toronto council voted 30 to 12 to ask Queen's Park for a share of sales tax revenue with municipalities, Sousa threw cold water on the request.

"I haven't seen any submissions forwarded by the city, but it's not something that, at this point, I'm prepared to entertain," the treasurer said Wednesday.

"I'm not looking at that," he said firmly of the request backed by Mayor John Tory. "There's a number of powers that are afforded to them now."

Although council asked the province allow the collection of a municipal sales tax if they were unwilling to share in harmonized sales tax (HST) revenues, Toronto councillors have many options to raise their own money, Municipal Affairs Minister Bill Mauro said.

"They already have a suite of revenue tools in the City of Toronto Act that they're not using," said Mauro.

The cabinet minister's comments followed a letter signed by five big-city mayors, including Tory, and sent to both the provincial and federal governments Tuesday asking for greater fiscal powers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

METRO AIN'T HAVING IT

MY RACIST COMMUTE

'Go back to Hong Kong,' Metro's Irene Kuan heard Wednesday when leaving Union Station.

Having lived and worked in Toronto her whole life, she'd never been targeted like that before — but lately, incidents of unchecked racism in our city have been frequent in the news.

Now, she reflects on the role of bystanders, **metroVIEWS**

LANCE MCMILLAN/METRO

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, December 15, 2016

TORONTO'S DEADLY STREETS THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Metro launched its Toronto's Deadly Streets campaign in June with the goal of making road safety a priority at city hall. This week, we look back on how far Toronto has come on the issue — **and the role our coverage played.**

More time at 37 intersections

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Toronto is giving pedestrians a bit more time.

Since the city's $80-million road safety plan was approved last summer, the city has increased the pedestrian crossing times at 37 different intersections. Additional intersections are slated to be re-timed in the new year.

"It really is about putting pedestrians first," said Roger Browne, Toronto's manager of traffic safety.

"They need enough time to cross the street so they're not feeling rushed or competing with vehicles in the process."

Crossing times have been a point of contention in Toronto all year.

During an enforcement blitz in June, police targeted pedestrians who started crossing after the flashing hand sign began counting down, going as far as to block them from crossing the street so cars could turn.

Pedestrian advocates hit back, saying inadequate crossing times made it impossible to cross the road legally in some areas.

Browne believes the changes made this year will make it easier for pedestrians to get where they're going safely and within the confines of the law.

The new standard for crossing time assumes pedestrians travel at roughly one metre per second. However, Browne said the city is looking to grant more time in areas with high concentrations of seniors.

Elderly residents comprise a disproportionate number of fatal pedestrian collisions in the city, and the road safety plan identifies them as a priority.

"There's a city-wide mandate to increase walk times, but with the road safety plan, we're taking it a step further going into targeted areas and looking to increase walk times even further," Browne said.

"Forget about one metre per second. We might even be looking at 0.9 metres or even 0.8 metres — that's basically a shuffle."

«THE METRO EFFECT»

Changing the language

Kasia Briegmann-Samson said Metro's Deadly Streets series has helped "sustain a public conversation on road violence."

"By using words such as deadly instead dangerous and collision instead of accident, you have run the alarm and stopped the sugar coating," she said.

Briegmann-Samson's husband, Tom, was killed by a hit-and-run driver while cycling to work in 2012. This year, she co-founded Friends and Families for Safe Streets, a Toronto road safety advocacy group made up of people whose loved ones have been killed in collisions with drivers.

"I for one, no longer feel like I'm swimming against the current by protesting Tom's death and what I've experienced since Tom's death. I feel like your series has affirmed, yes, there is a crisis and it's not all in my head — because that's what it has felt like at times.

"Your work has made a difference to me."

Action in 2016

- ☑ **Lower speed limits on 14 streets**
- ☑ **14 dangerous intersections redesigned**
- ☑ **More time to cross at 37 intersections**

NO MORE RUSHING University Avenue and College Street is one of the many spots where the city has increased pedestrian crossing times.
LANCE MCMILLAN/FOR METRO

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Devastated sons demand action

EAST YORK

City rules don't allow traffic lights where mother died

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Two weeks after his mother was killed crossing the road in East York, Scott Blue is struggling to process the grief.

"I'm still crying daily," he said. "We loved our mother to the ends of the Earth. We're devastated."

Jae Blue, 69, was walking to a fitness class Dec. 1 when she was hit and killed by a left-turning pickup truck driver in the crosswalk at Cosburn and Cedarvale avenues.

"We've been told the driver just didn't see our mother," said Scott's brother, Brian.

The brothers have since met with their local councillor, Ward 31's Janet Davis, and inquired about installing a traffic light at the intersection to prevent future tragedies.

Ryan, left, and Scott Blue's mother, Jae, was killed by a driver at Cosburn and Cedarvale avenues on Dec. 1. They're calling on the city to add a traffic light to the "dangerous" intersection. CONTRIBUTED

However, in a bid to avoid slowing down cars, city rules restrict the distance between traffic lights and the brothers have been told the intersection where their mother died is too close to an existing signal at Cosburn and Woodbine.

Brian and Scott visited the intersection this week, and said they saw left-turning drivers focused on traffic rather than pedestrians in the crosswalk. In one case, they said they were almost hit while crossing the street.

"We understand the city has bylaws and whatnot, but they should investigate these situations on a case-by-case basis," Brian said. "That intersection is dangerous; it's not a safe place to cross.

"If the driver didn't see our mother, then there's a good chance they wouldn't have seen a child."

Davis described the intersection as "busy" and said constituents have frequently reported crashes or near misses to her office. She's tried repeatedly to get a traffic light installed.

City rules "bias traffic flow over safety," Davis said, something she's learned over her 13 years as a councillor.

"Safety concerns don't get addressed," she said. "The assumption is that you don't want to hold up traffic on busy streets."

Davis wants to change that.

She submitted a motion Wednesday asking staff to re-examine the criteria for installing crosswalks and traffic lights. The plan was approved by council and a report is expected in the first quarter of 2017.

CLOSER LOOK | BELOVED RETIRED TEACHER

Jae Blue with her sons Scott and Brian, circa 2004.
CONTRIBUTED

Jae Blue was a retired teacher, but according to her sons "she never stopped teaching."

She had started a small garden-tending business and taught gardening classes. She also tutored local children.

"She was really just getting into the groove and enjoying retirement. She was constantly busy," said her son, Scott.

Scott, 38, and his brother Brian, 34, say they've been "overwhelmed" by the amount of support shown by their mother's neighbours since her Dec. 1 death.

"We knew she was a caring woman, but it's nice to know that she was cared for and that she'll be missed by a lot more people than just our immediate family," Brian said. LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

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34.8%

That's the number of Torontonians stuck spending almost 1/3 of their income on housing.

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Eileen Cato puts a whopping 85 per cent of her monthly income, coming from a pension, towards rent at the two-bedroom North York apartment she shares with her son and grandson.

"When I finish I have nothing," she said of paying bills and buying groceries. "You have to try and survive."

As the housing market continues to blaze red hot, and apartments get more expensive and harder to find, Torontonians are spending way more of their income on housing than the rest of the province, and more than is considered affordable, according to a new report from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The report shows nearly 35 per cent of Toronto residents spend at least 30 per cent — the threshold for what's considered affordable — of their income on housing.

It's the highest number anywhere in the province and higher than the overall provincial average of 27 per cent.

Alejandra Ruiz Vargas, chair for the East York chapter of anti-poverty group ACORN, said Cato is not alone in putting upwards of 80 per cent of her income on rent.

> **People go along because they don't have choices.**
> ALEJANDRA RUIZ VARGAS

It's particularly a problem for low and moderate income people but "even people who make more than $100,000 a year are spending more than they should because rent is so expensive," she said.

Jaime Rivest works as a bookkeeper downtown and lives in an Annex bachelor apartment. She puts 40 to 45 per cent of her income towards rent.

"After other bills are paid, food, transit, if I need clothes or other supplies, and having a little bit of a social life, there is hardly anything left for savings," said the 37-year-old.

"I love this city and love where I live but the cost of living here is going up so fast and my wages do not go up."

Ruiz Vargas and ACORN are calling for rent control in Ontario as one measure to ease the burden.

There are limits on how much landlords can raise rent each year in buildings built after 1991. But there's an exception if they do large repairs and sometimes they take advantage of that, said Ruiz Vargas.

IN OTHER NEWS

Concerned about housing costs? Take note. The U.S. Federal Reserve raised a key interest rate Wednesday by 0.25 per cent, to a range between 0.5 per cent and 0.75 per cent.

Canada's interest rate will stay the same, but people should keep an eye on fixed-rate mortgages because they're tied to U.S. bond prices.

In the past, rates for those mortgages have risen when the Federal Reserve announces a hike. WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CITY NEWS

Man survives collision
A driver who firefighters are calling "lucky" survived being sideswiped by a dump truck and forced over the expressway rail, before landing safely beside railway tracks, police said. Emergency crews got a call at 6:54 a.m. that an accident had occurred on the westbound Gardiner.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Public mourns death of Elana Fric-Shamji
Dozens of men and women gathered, huddled while holding candles on a frigid Wednesday evening in front of Queens Park to mourn the tragic death of slain doctor Elana Fric-Shamji. Mohini Datta-Ray, executive director of North York Women's Shelter addressed the crowd, putting the doctor's death in context as one of many acts of violence against women.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MUNICIPAL CODE

Owners must post warning signs, muzzle dogs that bite

Toronto residents with "dangerous dogs" must muzzle their pet, attach a colored tag to its collar, and put up warning signs, after city council unanimously passed amendments to the Toronto Municipal Code.

Under a new definition, a dog that has severely bitten or attacked a person or pet will be considered dangerous, as will dogs that have given non-severe bites twice or have been subject to a muzzle order.

The city will have increased enforcement powers and authority to seek stiffer fines and penalties for dog owners who don't comply with by-laws. The changes comes into effect in March.

"It's about time we made these very important changes that will make our families safer, that will target behaviour that is dangerous and unacceptable," said Coun. Glen de Baeremaeker.

Toronto council is going to make dog owners with pets who have a history of biting use muzzles and put up warning signs. JIM WILKES/ TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nor will the changes discriminate against a particular breed of dogs, "it targets bad behavior ... and puts the onus on the dog owner," he said.

"It allows our staff more ability to hopefully enter or go onto private property in pursuit of some of these dangerous animals and some of these dangerous owners."

Toronto has an estimated 230,000 dogs. Last year, Toronto Animal Services responded to 1,049 incidents of dog bites and 431 reports of dog attacks or menacing behaviour.

Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong said "it's not the dogs that are bad, it's the owners that are bad." Some people buy dogs and "don't walk them, they don't run them, they get bound up and this is when problems begin," he said.

"We should be licensing the owners, and not the dogs," and require owners to take training. Toronto also needs more dog parks, he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Inmates suing over solitary

Adam Capay was in solitary confinement for almost four years.
COURTESY ALISON JANE CAPAY

CORRECTIONS

'I now know what it feels like to want to die'

A $600-million class-action lawsuit was certified in an Ontario court this week, opening the door for thousands of prison inmates with diagnosed mental illnesses to seek compensation for their alleged mistreatment in federal jails.

The lawsuit alleges Canada's federal prison agency fails to properly care for mentally ill inmates, relies too much on the "cruel and unusual punishment" of solitary confinement, and neglects to adequately train its staff. Superior Court Justice Paul Perell ruled that the lawsuit should go ahead in a decision released Wednesday.

"It's a group of people who are often ignored by most of society," said James Sayce, a lawyer for the plaintiffs who expects "tens of thousands" of current and former inmates to join the class action against the federal justice ministry.

"In my own case, I remember asking myself, 'How much more of this can I take?' I must have asked myself 500 times, before I reached my breaking point. I now know what it feels like to want to die. I know what it feels like to have no hope and no options," said Chris Brazeau, 34, who claims to have spent periods of up to a year in solitary confinement during his 12-year sentence at an Edmonton jail.

"You become unfit to function in a social way," Brazeau said in his statement to Torstar News Service. "That is a prerequisite to live. You need social skills to survive. Solitary confinement removes that."

In an emailed statement, Corrections spokesperson Véronique Rioux said "effective and timely" treatment for inmates with mental illness is a priority for the agency.

Front-line staff are trained to "understand the mental health needs of offenders," and $77 million was "invested" to address the needs of these inmates during the 2015/16 fiscal year, she said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

WRONGFULLY CONVICTED

Lawsuit alleges that police planted drugs

A Parkdale man who spent more than five years behind bars before he was acquitted years after his release is suing the Toronto police officers involved in his arrest, alleging they used unfounded and fraudulent accusations to detain him.

Nosakhare Ohenhen, 36, filed a $4.5-million lawsuit Wednesday against the Toronto Police Service Board, police Chief Mark Saunders and the five officers involved in his arrest, charge and subsequent conviction: Clint Westell, Scott Tait, Kaine Mildenberger, Adam Landry and Chris Beckwith.

None of the allegations have been proven in court and no statement of defence has yet been filed.

As of Wednesday morning, Toronto police said they had not received the lawsuit and would not be commenting.

The lawsuit alleges the five officers involved in Ohenhen's arrest conspired to secure his conviction, regardless of his guilt or innocence, by planting drugs seized from another person on him.

It also alleges the officers failed to provide complete disclosure of evidence at the trial and allowed false evidence that resulted in Ohenhen's wrongful conviction.

"Nosa can never get back the time he lost, the liberty he lost," said Ohenhen's lawyer, Michael Smitiuch. "We hope that what happened to Nosa will not happen again in the future… He suffered in a way that I don't think anybody can understand."

Ohenhen was arrested on Aug. 21, 2008 and charged with drug and firearm offences, as well as resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer. Ohenhen had a criminal record that included drug trafficking offenses and firearms possession.

In September, Ohenhen was acquitted of all charges. Superior Court Justice Michael Quigley found that the case also raised the "serious prospect" that police planted drugs on him.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nosakhare Ohenhen
THE CANADIAN PRESS

PLATFORM CHANGES AT UNION STATION

Starting December 19th

Due to construction

What's Changing

On December 19th, we'll be making platform changes to start the next phase of the Union Station Revitalization. Construction will continue on the train shed roof, tracks and station improvements. Please check our website for more information, and be sure to check the departure boards before heading to your platform.

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Water that's two billion years old

SCIENCE

Toronto researchers' remarkable discovery

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Deep in the bowels of a mine in Timmins, Ont., researchers from the University of Toronto have discovered the world's oldest water.

And even after more than two billion years, it's safe to drink.

"It's safe, but I wouldn't recommend it. It's eight times more saline than seawater … and full of interesting heavy metals that can disagree with humans," said Oliver Warr, one of the researchers who led the latest expedition into the mine.

Back in 2013, the team discovered samples in the same mine that were dated at least one billion years old. However, more recent samples from deeper in the mine have proven to be twice as old.

The ancient H20 predates dinosaurs by more than one billion years, and was present when "the Earth was still becoming the Earth as we know it," Warr said. "It's like a time capsule for geochemical data."

As a result, the water can offer clues about the formation of the Earth, and the very beginnings of life on the planet.

"It's incredible that water can have residence on the earth at this kind of scale," Warr said.

HOUSING

Rental bylaw to better protect tenants

Tougher rules for landlords and better protections for tenants could be in place by next summer, following the approval of a new regulation for rental apartments.

The new plan, accepted by city council on Wednesday, will require property owners to register with the city, have a comprehensive pest management plan that includes licensed professionals, use licensed contractors for all repairs and have a state of good repair capital plan.

It will also result in a process to track tenant complaints and the creation of hard targets for city staff and landlords to ensure issues are identified and resolved.

That means city staff will be collecting information from roughly 3,500 buildings, containing about 200,000 rental units. In Toronto, council heard, roughly half of the city lives in rental homes.

"This demonstrates that Toronto councillors as a whole recognize that tenants need us to take substantive action to make sure that they are better protected," said Coun. Josh Matlow, following the vote.

"For far too long, too many landlords have been able to keep their buildings in disrepair, leaving renters in shameful conditions without as much accountability and consequences as we need. We have taken a stand today."

The program is expected to cost about $5 million, with 53 per cent of the money expected to be recovered from an annual landlord registration fee, costing $10.60 for each unit, 12 per cent from enforcement action and 35 per cent from property taxes.

If the funding plan is adopted through the upcoming budget process it would also mean 12 new full-time staff members working in inspection and bylaw enforcement, on top of a staff of 24. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Bombardier could miss deadline: TTC

Despite repeated delays to Toronto's order for new streetcars, TTC CEO Andy Byford has been adamant that he won't let Bombardier miss the deadline for delivering the new fleet by 2019. But TTC staff are now warning that is a real possibility.

A TTC report released Wednesday warned "there is a risk that Bombardier may not meet the revised delivery schedule for contract completion" of 204 new vehicles by the end of 2019.

According to the document, which will go before the TTC board next Tuesday, staff reached their conclusion based in part on their assessment of "production readiness" at Bombardier's plants in Canada, Mexico and Europe.

The Montreal-based rail manufacturer has revised its delivery schedule several times after falling badly behind the original timeline for the $1.25-billion order, but it has always said it would complete delivery by 2019 as originally agreed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Feds scrap first-come, first-serve visa process

REUNIFICATION

Spots allotted by random lottery after red flags raised

Coveted spots for the parent and grandparent visa program will be awarded by lottery in 2017 after the federal Liberals scrapped the old first-come, first-serve system that had raised concerns over people paying to be at the front of that line.

Applications for the over-subscribed program had been accepted only via courier or mail at a single immigration office, and since they were processed in the order received, couriers had been doing brisk business promising to be at the front of the line, in exchange for fees that could be as high as $400.

But that system has now been replaced by a random draw, the federal immigration minister announced Wednesday.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister John McCallum in the House of Commons. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

"We're ensuring everyone can access the application process by giving them the same chance to have their name chosen," Immigration Minister John McCallum said in a statement.

Beginning Jan. 3, Canadians will have 30 days to fill out an online form indicating their desire to sponsor a parent or grandparent. Immigration officials will then randomly draw 10,000 individuals who will then be given 90 days to submit the application.

The change comes after The Canadian Press reported that the previous first-come, first-serve process was seeing couriers charge more than $400 to guarantee applications would be at the top of the pile.

That raised concerns that the visas were going to those who could afford to pay the high fees or camp out for hours at the immigration office.

High demand came in part from the fact the previous Conservative government closed the program entirely between 2011 and 2014 to bring down a massive backlog. It re-opened in 2014 with a annual cap of 5,000 applications. Last year, 14,000 applications were received and the Liberals later raised the cap on the number of applications they would accept to 10,000.

Couriers had already started taking reservations to deliver 2017 applications, with fees ranging from $60 to $200, depending on whether someone wanted to guarantee their application was delivered first.

One company, Metro Mississauga, said it had about 150 reservations already and was now in the process of refunding all fees.

Company owner Chris Colaco said while he understood why the government was making the change, he wondered why it couldn't have been announced earlier. His business doesn't depend on delivering the applications, but Canadians do depend on the program, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winnipeg councillor sorry for comments

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

EDMONTON

An Edmonton city planner says the city won't "white wash" proposed indigenous street names, even if some residents have a hard time pronouncing them. METRO

A Winnipeg city councillor has apologized for saying that training city workers on the legacy of the country's residential school system would take them away from doing their jobs, like filling potholes or cutting the grass.

During a meeting, Coun. Jeff Browaty said he supports Mayor Brian Bowman's commitment to reconciliation, but said he draws the line at spending extra money.

"Taking away or paying employees overtime to attend this type of training, taking them away from cutting the grass, filling potholes, providing the services we count on, I don't think that is our position," Browaty said.

He later issued a statement apologizing for his comments and clarifying. "I apologize if my comments offended anyone. I simply don't see this as the city's role."

Survey should protect privacy, watchdog says

The federal privacy watchdog has opened a formal investigation into the Trudeau government's much-maligned online survey on electoral reform, which asks participants to disclose detailed personal information.

But privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien is not waiting to conclude the investigation before taking action to protect Canadians' privacy.

Therrien has provided preliminary recommendations to the government aimed at better protecting the privacy of people who participate in the MyDemocracy.ca survey, his spokeswoman, Valerie Lawton, said Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Residents feel 'duped' by renewed fighting

SYRIA

Aleppo ceasefire unravels as fighting starts once again

A ceasefire to evacuate rebel fighters and civilians from the remaining opposition-held neighbourhoods of Aleppo unraveled on Wednesday, once again raising the spectre of a bloody end to the battle for Syria's largest city as residents reported the resumption of shelling and brutal bombing runs.

Opponents of President Bashar Assad accused the government and its allies of scuttling the deal by adding new conditions, including the lifting of a rebel siege on two pro-government Shiite villages in nearby Idlib province.

However, hours after it crumbled, the rebels said the deal was back on. There was no comment from the government or its allies, and minutes after the new ceasefire was to take effect at 11:30 p.m. local time, there were still reports of shelling in the few blocks of the city under rebel control.

Smoke is seen billowing in the background on Wednesday in a rebel-held neighbourhood of Aleppo. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Three rebel spokesmen said the first group of wounded people and civilians were to be escorted out of the city early Thursday morning. Rebels would follow, they said, adding that the conditions had not changed and that they had even agreed with the Russians on the exact number of buses and convoys to be deployed in the rescue.

The Syrian military media denied an agreement had been reached and said in a statement that the negotiations were "complicated."

The evacuation was to have begun at dawn Wednesday, but quickly derailed, descending into terrifying violence. Residents said government buses arrived in the pre-dawn hours at agreed upon meeting points, where the wounded were first in line to be evacuated after surviving weeks of intense fighting amid destroyed medical facilities and depleted supplies.

But they were turned away by pro-government militias manning the checkpoints. Then violence erupted: shelling and then airstrikes. The rebels retaliated, at one point shelling the pro-government villages of Foua and Kfraya in Idlib and detonating a car bomb in a frontline area.

"They began to strike as if there's no such thing as a ceasefire or civilian evacuation," said Mahmoud Raslan, a local media activist.

Mohammed Abu Jaafar, head of forensics in eastern Aleppo, said residents felt "duped."

"People have left their shelters to be ready for the evacuation. I can't describe it," Abu Jaafar said. "They started to target the areas where people have gathered. These people were walking to the crossings designated for exit."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beauty queen muzzled at Miss World: Reports

Anastasia Lin TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canadian beauty queen Anastasia Lin is allowed to smile and look pretty at the Miss World pageant in Washington, but she's reportedly barred from opening her mouth and speaking her mind about human rights abuses in China.

Pageant officials wouldn't connect Torstar with Lin on Wednesday. Lin was blocked from attending last year's Miss World pageant in China after her criticism of human rights abuses against Falun Gong practitioners.

American news reports say that she's not allowed to speak with the media this time around.

And the hosts of a film in which she stars say she has been blocked from attending its Washington premiere tonight. The film sharply criticizes Chinese human rights practices and is being presented by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

Lin, a Chinese-born actress, has posted on social media about human rights conditions in China, especially regarding the Falun Gong. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Newspaper won't stand by Santa story

The Associated Press published a story, relying on information from the Knoxville News-Sentinel, about a man portraying Santa Claus who says a terminally ill boy died in his arms.

The paper now says that it cannot verify the man's story and no longer stands by it.

The story, published in the News-Sentinel on Sunday was about Eric Schmitt-Matzen, who said he had promised to protect the identities of the child's family.

In a story posted online, editor Jack McElroy and columnist Sam Venable said Schmitt-Matzen's story "remains unverified." They wrote that they could not determine whether his account was accurate. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Ashley Madison's parent pays $1.6M in settlements

The parent company of infidelity dating site Ashley Madison said it has reached settlements in an investigation led by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. Ruby Corp. said it has paid more than $1.6 million US, with half the money going to the FTC and half to the states participating in the probe.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DATA BREACH

Billion Yahoo accounts hacked

Yahoo says it believes hackers stole data from more than one billion user accounts in August 2013, in what is thought to be the largest data breach at an email provider.

The California company was also home to what's now most likely the second largest hack in history, one that exposed 500 million Yahoo accounts. The company disclosed that breach in September. Yahoo said it hasn't identified the intrusion associated with this theft.

Yahoo says the information stolen may include names, email addresses, phone numbers, birthdates and security questions and answers. The company says it believes bank-account information and payment-card data were not affected.

The new hack revelation raises fresh questions about Verizon's $4.8 billion US proposed acquisition of Yahoo, and whether the big mobile carrier will seek to modify or abandon its bid. If the hacks cause a user backlash against Yahoo, the company's services wouldn't be as valuable to Verizon. The telecom giant wants Yahoo and its many users to help it build a digital ad business.

Yahoo said Wednesday that it is requiring users to change their passwords and invalidating security questions so they can't be used to hack into accounts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The Vancouver-filmed The Man In The High Castle is one of the Amazon originals Canadians will want to test drive on Amazon Prime Video. COURTESY AMAZON

Prime time on Amazon

STREAMING VIDEO

What to watch now the service has launched in Canada

It isn't fair — that has to be what the Canadian broadcast competition is saying now that Amazon Prime Video is officially here. Enjoyed for years in the U.S., Britain and elsewhere, Amazon is a streaming service not unlike Netflix.

Like Netflix, Amazon has courted and partnered with seasoned storytellers and is in business with the best. Canadians got a taste of what all the fuss was about when Transparent and Mozart in the Jungle were reasons to subscribe to Shomi. Once that service pulled the plug, the clock began ticking as to when Amazon would crack the Canadian market.

That day has arrived. First out of the gate is The Grand Tour, a reality motoring series starring notorious Top Gear trio Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May. Beyond that show, here's a tour of some Amazon originals Canadians will want to test drive:

FLEABAG:

Phoebe Waller-Bridge dares you to look away. Based on her one-woman play, this six-part British series has pitch-perfect black comedy. It stars Waller-Bridge as an audaciously unlikable young woman trying to survive the mean streets of modern London.

RED OAKS:

Set in the '80s, Red Oaks is about a young college student who works summers as a tennis pro at the snooty Red Oaks Country Club. Stealing scenes is Canadian Ennis Esmer (The Listener) who aces his role as the club's charm-dog tennis pro. "Not a sendup of the 1980s," wrote the New York Times, "but a surprisingly straightforward extension of the genre." Season 2 is even better.

THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE:

Shot in Vancouver, The Man in the High Castle spent a year as the best show filmed in Canada that Canadians couldn't (legally) see. The premise is an instant grabber: suppose Hitler had won. The drama is set in the early '60s with the U.S. divided on both coasts by Germany and Japan. Season 2 has just begun.

CRISIS IN SIX SCENES:

Woody Allen stooping to television? Well, Amazon offered complete creative control. It is no Annie Hall. Miley Cyrus is more Whiny Cyrus as a '60s activist. Allen the actor gamely tries to revive his cowardly, nervous movie shtick, but the real delight is seeing Elaine May shake off the rust.

GOOD GIRLS REVOLT:

Still seeking that Mad Men fix? Good Girls Revolt comes close. The series follows a group of young newsmagazine researchers as the women's movement gains momentum in the late '60s. Toronto-born Chris Diamantopoulos (Silicon Valley) is their workaholic editor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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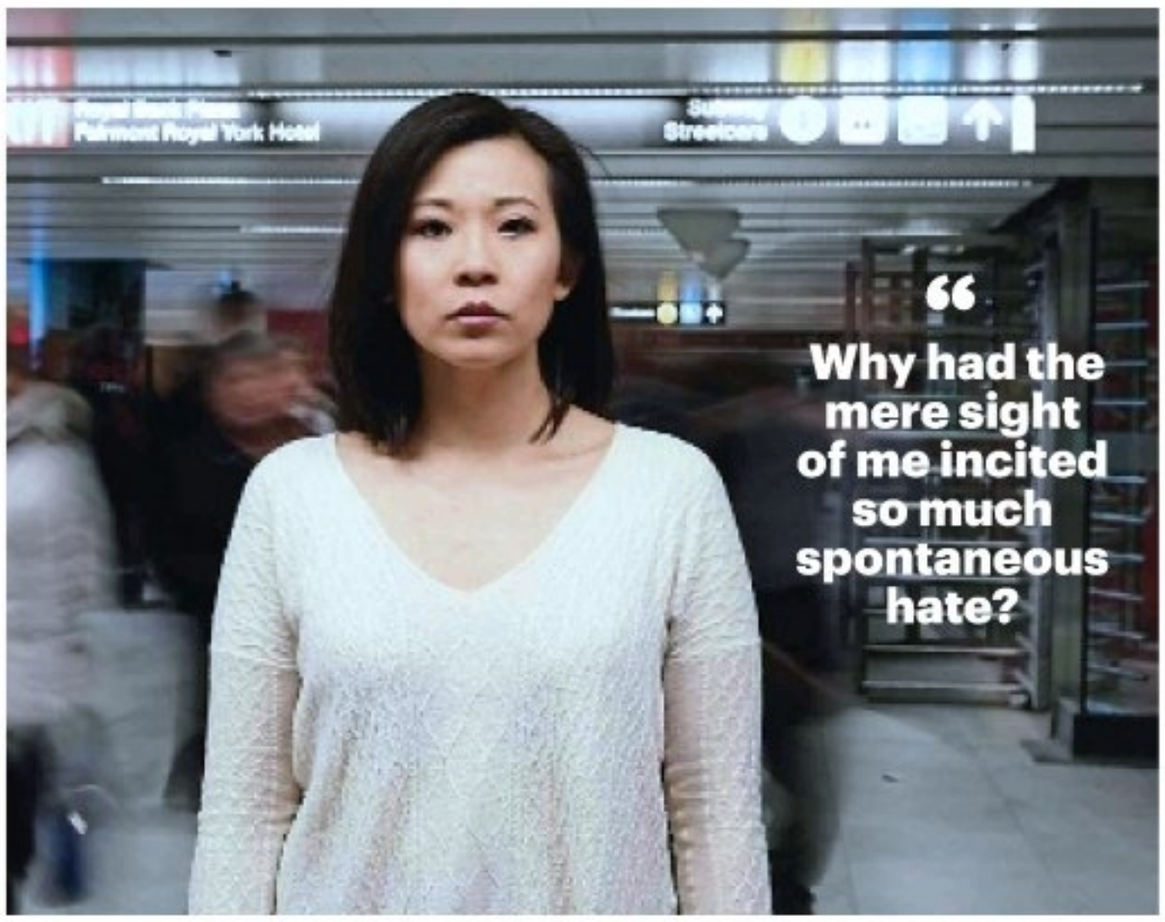
metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, December 15, 2016

REFLECTION

Ending hate is on all of us

On Wednesday morning, Metro staffer Irene Kuan was the target of a racist remark hurled by a fellow transit rider. She has spent her whole life living and working in Toronto, and this was a first.

Irene Kuan
Metro | Toronto



Irene Kuan, Metro's managing editor, digital, stands on a Toronto subway platform.
LANCE MCMILLAN/FOR METRO

"Go back to Hong Kong," a raspy voice of a man shouted at me, as I was about to exit the subway Wednesday morning.

It was so out of nowhere that the words didn't even register with me until about five minutes later, when I was outside Union Station in downtown Toronto.

The first thing I actually thought about upon stepping out into the elements was the extreme cold weather alert that had been issued for the city that morning. But then it dawned on me: I'd been the target of a random verbal racist attack.

Working as I do in the news industry, I've been aware of the recent surge in public acts of racism, both in this country and in the United States — pro-"white people" posters on lightposts, spray-painted swastikas, verbal assaults of hijab-wearing women. But, as a Canadian-born Chinese journalist, I'd never really thought about it happening to me.

And then it did. A random person told me to go back to a place I'm not even from. And, at some point in the aftermath, it occurred to me that, no, this actually had happened to me before.

This past summer I was driving down an empty dirt road with my boyfriend in a ghost town called Vroomanton, northwest of Sunderland, Ont., when we suddenly saw a random flash of a middle finger from a Caucasian couple speeding by us on a motorcycle. Then, too, I had a delayed reaction. I realize now that in the moment I was more concerned about being presumptuous, about the possibility of taking offence to a gesture that, perhaps, was not as it had seemed. Others have since told me they'd be outraged if had been in my shoes.

Now, hours after the latest incident, when I think back to the words that man said to me, I really don't know how to react. I'm not angry or upset, just surprised that it happened. Because it's 2016.

Both times, I found myself asking why I had been targeted. I was just going about my own business. I didn't do anything to provoke anybody. Why had the mere sight of me incited in perfect strangers so much spontaneous hate that they felt compelled to act out so randomly and viciously?

I know there's no logical answer; it's a senseless act. What, beyond acknowledging that an awful thing has happened, can I really say or do?

These experiences have led me think of the story of Stephanie Kim, a Toronto woman who was subjected to racial slurs standing in line at a TD bank back in November of this year. In recalling the event to the Toronto Star, Kim said that not even the bank staff, let alone her fellow patrons, came to her defence as a man standing behind her in line called her a "chink." (By the way, Kim is Korean, not Chinese.)

Kim said that, more than the insults themselves; the staff's passive attitude when she complained about the man is what made her feel like a second-class citizen.

It's easy to see that the proliferation of these incidents is the natural by-product of the current political climate, in which some have been led to believe that phrases like "Make America Great Again" and "Canadian Values" are open invitations to promote, and directly express, bigotry and racism.

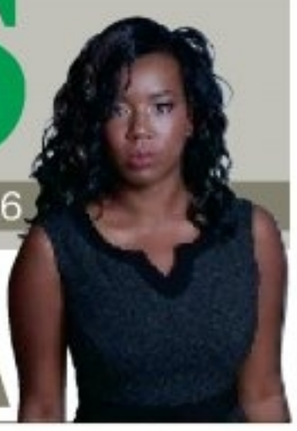
It's disappointing enough that there are people out there who, having apparently confused their resentment-fuelled desire to spew hate speech with their constitutional right to free speech, act out like this in public.

But even worse is that, collectively, we seem not yet to have realized how dangerous it is to stand by and accept hateful vitriol directed at others. In this way, our society normalizes hatred and resentment. And that's not any one individual's problem.

Neither the victim nor the perpetrator of racist violence, verbal or otherwise, should be expected to assume full responsibility for what all of us should be calling by its true name — hate — and fighting against whenever, wherever and however it appears.

Metro ain't having it

Have you recently seen, heard or been the target of racist outbursts in your community? If so, how did you address it? How do you wish you addressed it? Tell us all about it. Tweet using the hashtag #ainthavingit or email us: **readers@metronews.ca**



VICKY MOCHAMA

Look out, Silicon Valley, Canada Post wants in on the action

A House of Commons committee on Tuesday made recommendations for the future of Canada Post. There are dozens, some of which are things one hopes they're currently doing such as number 38: "Canada Post focus on its core competencies to help Canada meet the challenges of the 21st century."

However, the idea that caught my eye is a suggestion that the company create a "free digital infrastructure," which might mean "providing the basis for a Canadian social network." The committee's actual recommendations don't get into what that looks like or means but I think it's worth exploring.

Canada Post is, for example, ideally suited to run a Canadian version of Tinder. Using a combination of their near-pristine location data, Facebook profiles and types of mail received, Canadians might start hooking up courtesy of the nation's mail delivery service. Imagine the stories. "Kids, I met your grandfather when he swiped right on my profile because he saw that I was a skier who regularly sent express mail."

The marriage rate has been in decline for a while. With a Canada Post dating service (PostDates? Mail and Tail? Just thinking aloud here), we could turn things around for the nation's beleaguered single people.

That may not work for people who are already married unless Canada Post is willing to compete with Ashley Madison.

For Canadians who are already coupled up, Canada Post could run a Snapchat-like service for couples worried whether their Christmas presents will arrive in time. Rather than a tracking number that says that your package has been in Mississauga for far too long, couples can get filtered pictures of their packages as they travel the country. Nothing adds a frisson to marriage like watching a box with a flower crown make its way to your mother-in-law. The excitement is hard to contain.

According to a 2011 piece by the Toronto Star, more than 18,000 wallets end up in Canada Post's Undeliverable Mail Offices. The company tries to reunite them with their owners. Other items, however, are sold off or destroyed after seven months. What if they ran a ChatRoulette-style services for those pieces? Just log in, press a button and you can get seven-months-late invoice from a dentist's office in Lethbridge. Or you could get a hand-stitched quilt from someone's grandmother. Sounds like a lottery with only winners to me.

As the business of mail continues to shift dramatically, it's worth putting every idea on the table. For some, physical mail is a relic of the past but for others, it is still an essential need. A Canada Post with a strong and smart digital presence could marry both worlds.

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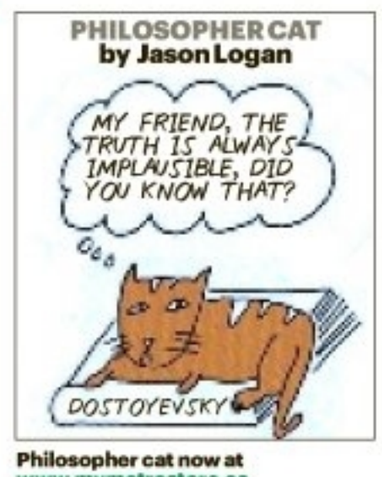

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Cocoa prices fall to three-year low, making chocolate cheaper

Loving Christmas when you're not Christian

Vancouver resident Almeera Ismail goes all out for Christmas: she bakes festive cookies, decorates a tree and buys gifts for family. As a Muslim, her love of the holiday grew when she moved to Ottawa as a student, "and you reach for things that make you feel homey or ground you." JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO; INSET: COURTESY ALMEERA ISMAIL

CULTURE

Group rituals bind a society together, says religion prof

Megan Haynes
For Metro Canada

Almeera Ismail adores Christmas.

The 30-year-old Vancouver native goes all out: homemade cards, festive cookies, gifts for her nieces, a small tree.

But as a Muslim, Ismail didn't start celebrating until she was in high school when she and her sisters convinced their parents to let them get a Christmas tree. When she went to university in Ottawa, her love of the holiday grew.

"It was when I moved away — and you reach for things that make you feel homey or ground you — that I started to really get into Christmas and the spirit of being around friends and family over the holidays," she says. When her sister entered an inter-faith relationship with a Christian man and the pair had a baby, even Ismail's parents came on board the holiday trend. Now, the whole family celebrates on Christmas Eve, exchanging presents and feasting.

Increasingly, people of all faiths and backgrounds are tuning into Christmas in some form.

A 2011 study by Ottawa-based Abacus, which polled just over 1,000 people, found of the 92 per cent of respondents who said they celebrate the holidays, 52 per cent do not consider themselves Christian.

There are a couple factors at play here, says Christopher Helland, professor of religion in contemporary culture at Dalhousie University. First, as a society, we're becoming more secular: In 2011, Statistics Canada found a quarter of the population said they had no religious affiliation, up from 16 per cent in 2001. Second, we're seeing more people from other faiths arrive in the country: from the last census, 8.8 per cent of the population is of a non-Christian faith, up from 4.8% a decade earlier.

As a result of this shift, society has moved towards a more inclusive season, opting for phrasing like "Happy Holidays," Helland says.

That has offended some people: "Some groups are very upset about that. (They) feel taking the Christ out of Christmas isn't a good thing," he says. However, the shift towards a less religious-filled holiday has made it more acceptable of people of other faiths to participate however they want.

While there are some culturally imposed traditions, such as spending time with family, trees and gift giving, for those of different faith backgrounds wanting to celebrate, it's a great opportunity to build in new rituals without some of the pressures others might face.

"Sometimes the beliefs behind the rituals change, or adapt, take on different meaning. But we certainly like to do the ritual — they are important," Helland says. In fact, allowing the tradition to change and adapt to be more inclusive can help be a bridge in society, he says.

It's not a new idea: an early sociologist, Emile Durkheim, said at the turn of the 20th century that in the absence of a religious tie, in a modernist society these group rituals become the things that bind a society together.

"It's pushed on us pretty heavily that 'This is the holidays, this where you do the gift giving and be with family," says Helland "It's hard to not be part of that if you're part of our society and culture."

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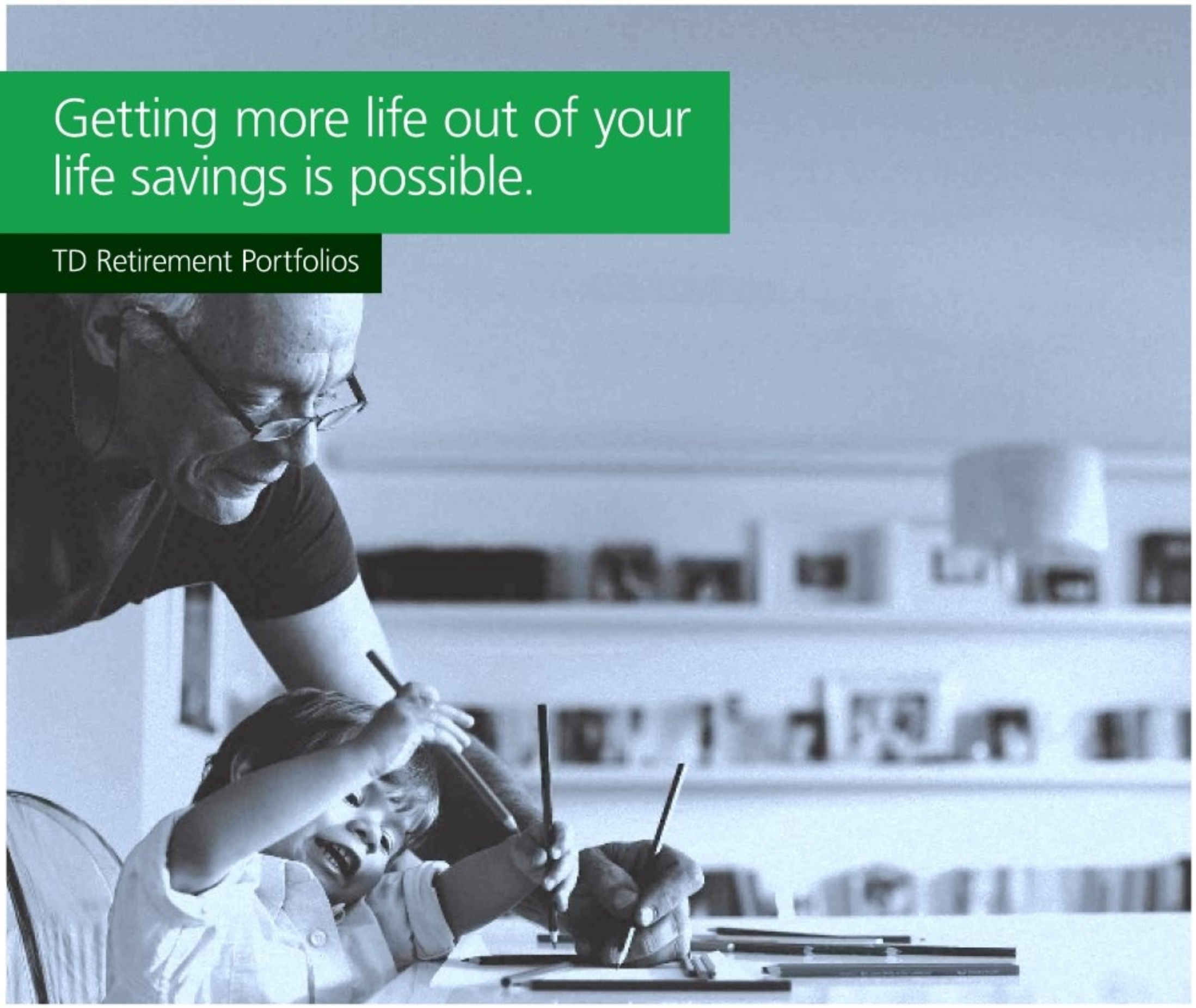

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She had 'brains, beauty and breeches'

INTERVIEW

Canada's Aloha Wanderwell was first woman to drive the globe

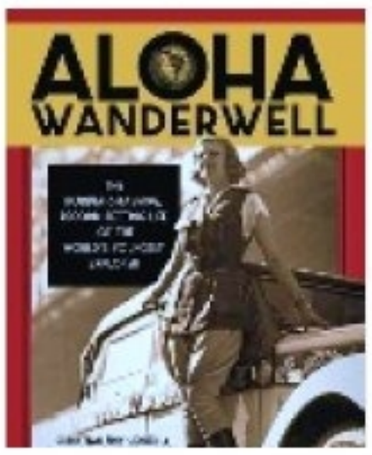
Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

With her blond ringlets, Kewpie-doll lips and statuesque height, Aloha Wanderwell could be a Hollywood invention, leaning against a Ford Model-T, all sass and swagger. But what her 1920s publicity photo doesn't reveal — and what has, for the most part, been buried in history — is that at the age of 16, Wanderwell embarked on an adventure that, among her many records, would make her the first woman to drive around the world, covering 380,000 miles and 80 countries before the age of 30.

Back in 1998, Vancouver television producer Randolph Eustace-Wallace, co-author of the book Aloha Wanderwell: The Border-Smashing, Record-Setting Life of the World's Youngest Explorer, was using the brand-new Google search engine to research his own adventure when he stumbled onto her story.

Eustace-Wallace was looking for information on driving around the world when his cousin called from Ontario needing help with travel plans to Hawaii. He entered "Aloha Airlines" into Google, which mixed with his online search for driving, and up popped a story about Wanderwell. Intrigued, he saved the link, but it wasn't until a couple years later, when he partnered with journalist Christian Fink-Jensen, his co-author on Aloha Wanderwell, did their decade of detective work begin in earnest.

At this point, the duo didn't know that Wanderwell was originally named Idris Hall, born in Winnipeg in 1906, or that her husband had been jailed as a German spy (and later murdered). None of that is mentioned in her 1939 ghostwritten autobiography, Call To Adventure.



"The ghostwriter tarted it up, and added a lot of fiction, made it more melodramatic," says Eustace-Wallace. "When we first read it, we thought, 'It's too bad she's such a terrible writer,' but as it turns out, she was incredible."

Wanderwell's story is so incredible it doesn't require embellishment. In 1922, while the bored teenager was attending school, she answered an ad looking for women with "Brains, Beauty & Breeches" to accompany Captain Ralph Wanderwell — whom she would eventually marry — as a driver and secretary on his international expeditions.

"For 10 years, their escapades were front-page news," says Eustace-Wallace. And yet, he and Fink-Jensen found plenty of conflicting information during their arduous research process, mainly because Wanderwell had reinvented her own personal history. "It's difficult to tell a non-fiction story about someone who tried to keep their life under wraps," he says.

As it turns out, the key to unlocking Aloha's mystery was Wanderwell's children. In order to gain access to films produced by Wanderwell that had been bequeathed to the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian, Eustace-Wallace and Fink-Jensen needed permission from her two offspring. When Valri, who lived in Honolulu at the time, discovered that the two writers were Canadian, she embraced their request. As it turns out, she and her brother Nile, now in their 80s, had been raised on Vancouver Island, and still had fond memories of their early years.

Forgotten Canadian adventurer Aloha Wanderwell. CONTRIBUTED

The writers and children became close. During one trip to Honolulu, Valri appeared with a dusty tin box she had recently discovered that was labelled with her mother's initials. Eustace-Wallace picked the lock and discovered the "Rosetta Stone": Wanderwell's original passport containing every border crossing (many of which were contrary to other reports), her logbooks and a draft of an unpublished memoir. they had all the details needed to shed light on one of Canada's most incredible adventurers. As Eustace-Wallace concludes, "It's the story of someone who was lost to history, and shouldn't be."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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5 ROCKING READS FOR THE MUSIC LOVER IN YOUR LIFE

It's only rock 'n' roll but we like it — and equally we like reading about the inside story of performers, songs and scenes. From Bowie to The Band and The Stones to the blues — plus a deep dive under the 6ix — here are some page turners for groovers and movers alike. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

1 Interview

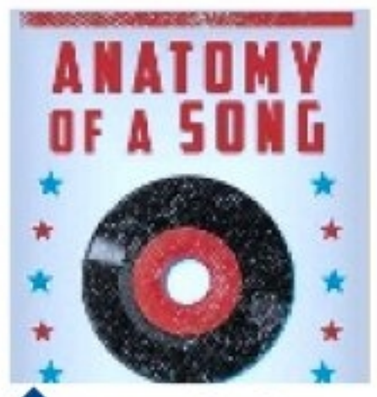
David Bowie: The Last Interview and Other Conversations is a series of 10 interviews with the late icon that begins in 1964 when he was 16 and still David Jones; his last was in 2006 with Ricky Gervais, a jokey exchange to promote Bowie's appearance on Gervais's show Extras. In 2004 Bowie had a heart attack on stage, after which he stopped performing and giving interviews. But during the preceding 40 decades he had an open relationship with the press, as this collection attests.

2 Chronicle

When he was between the ages of 20 and 25, Derek von Essen and his Ricoh 35 mm SLR camera were fixtures on the Toronto club scene. Writer Phil Saunders arrived in Toronto, around the same age, around the same time, wanting to "shake things up and shout at the moon." Their energizing chronicle of the period is **No Flash, Please!: Underground Music in Toronto 1987-92**.

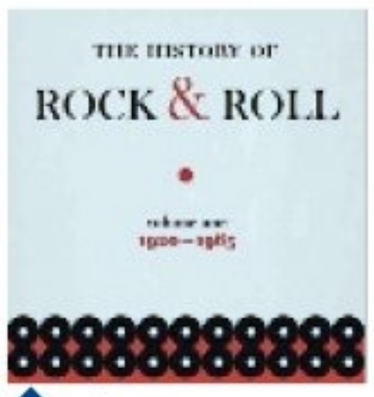
3 Memoir

Guitarist/songwriter Robbie Robertson's memoir, **Testimony**, begins in 1960 when he was age 16 and on a train out of Toronto headed for Arkansas for an audition with Ronnie Hawkins's rockabilly crew. It swings back to Robertson's youth, then careens forward through his years with the Hawks, touring with Bob Dylan in 1966, the creation of The Band and plenty more.



4 Compilation

Marc Myers' compilation of the Wall Street Journal's smart column **Anatomy of a Song: The Oral History of 45 Iconic Hits That Changed Rock, R & B and Pop**, is built on a simple idea — that we all want to know the real story, told by insiders, about the songs we love. It includes Mick Jagger describing what inspired him to write Moonlight Mile in 1971.



5 History

Ed Ward, the historian for NPR's Fresh Air for 35 years, begins **The History of Rock & Roll, Vol. 1: 1920-1963** in the '20s, when blues, country and black music ruled the southern airwaves; it concludes in December 1963, just as the Beatles were packing for their first North American tour. Ward hopes that readers use it as a gateway to deeper investigation.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Schumer picks battle: women are people too

THE SHOW: Amy Schumer Live at the Apollo (HBO) Dec. 15
THE MOMENT: Debunking the label

Amy Schumer tackles gender parity norms. CONTRIBUTED

"I'm labeled a sex comic," Amy Schumer says on stage. She wears a short black dress and tall nude pumps, and occasionally swigs from a wine bottle. "I think it's just because I'm a girl. A guy could get up here and literally pull his [junk] out and everyone would be like, 'He's a thinker.'

"I think sex is explained incorrectly as far as men's and women's roles go," she continues. "We're told over and over, 'Men love sex, women just deal with it.' Every sitcom, the guy gets home from work: 'Honey, how 'bout tonight?' And she's always, 'Bleah,' laundry, laundry.

"It's insane," Schumer concludes. "Every girl I know loves having sex. But you're made to feel disgusting and weird. What girl would say, 'No, I don't want to feel the one good thing we're allowed as humans'?"

I'm editing a bit here. Schumer says those lines, but she surrounds them with unprintable tangents, about how she has to treat artists' erections like souffles and other such bawdiness. And while you're laughing at the raunch, she's sneaking in the feminism.

Schumer is a sex comic in one important regard: because she's made sex the final, funniest battleground in the gender-parity wars. She repeatedly tackles it on her series, but in this one-hour special she distills it to its essence.

Its essence is this: Women are allowed to feel everything men are, because women are people. That's the truly shocking thing about Schumer's routine — it's nearly 2017, and that idea still feels subversive.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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26 2:00pm LIMITED; 5:00pm LIMITED; 8:00pm GOOD SEATS	27 11:00am GOOD SEATS; 2:00pm LIMITED; 5:00/8:00pm LIMITED	28 11:00am GOOD SEATS; 2:00pm LIMITED; 8:00pm SOLD OUT	29 2:00pm LIMITED; 5:00pm GOOD SEATS; 8:00pm SOLD OUT	30 2:00pm GOOD SEATS; 5:00pm LIMITED; 8:00pm GOOD SEATS	31 12:00pm GOOD SEATS; 3:00pm GOOD SEATS

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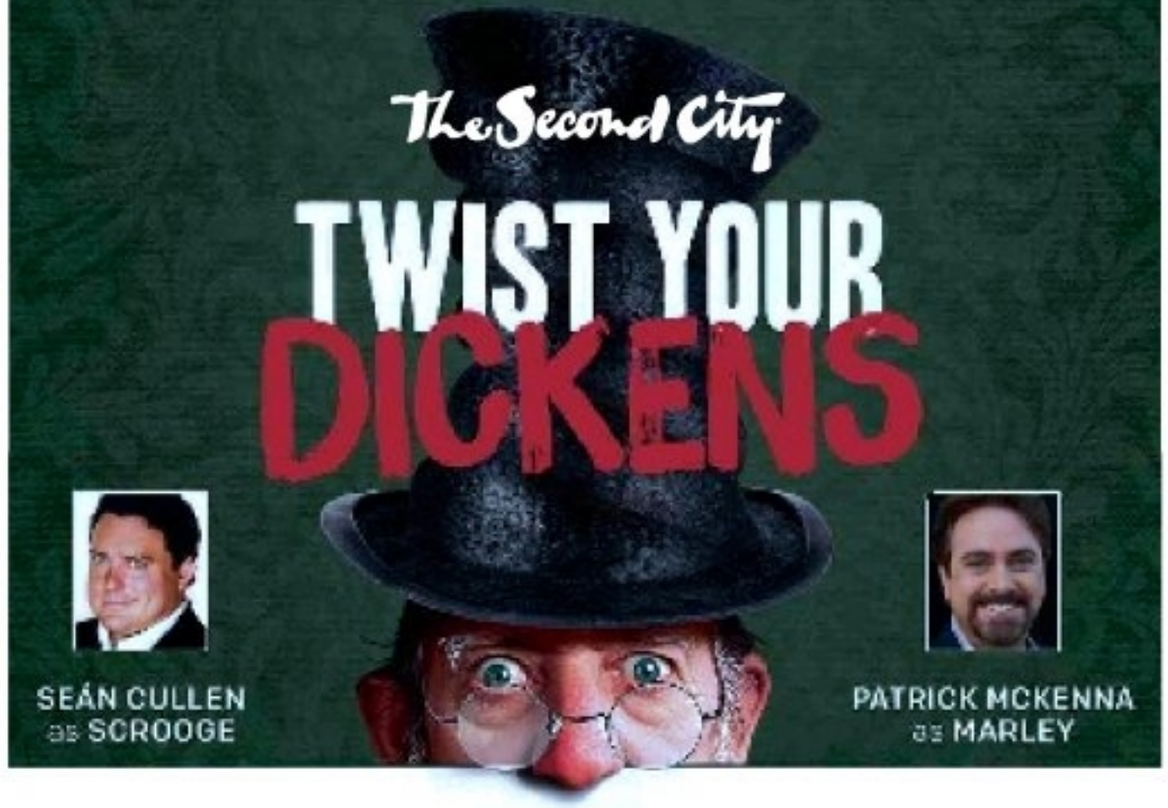

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LEGACY

Sporting icons pay tribute to Thicke

Canadian entertainer Alan Thicke — a longtime sports fan with a strong connection to the hockey world — was remembered fondly by the sports community Wednesday.

Thicke, from Kirkland Lake, Ont., died Tuesday at age 69. Hockey legend and longtime friend Wayne Gretzky offered his thoughts in a post on Twitter.

"Janet & I are deeply saddened to hear of Alan's passing. He was a wonderful man, father, husband and friend. He will be missed by all. RIP Alan," Gretzky tweeted.

A photo of the actor with Gretzky, Phil Esposito and Gordie Howe — all wearing all-star uniforms — was posted on the NHL's Twitter feed.

"In addition to being a passionate fan, Alan was an energetic participant in many of our events, including all-star, charity games and awards shows," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said in a statement. "He frequently attended games, and was with us as recently as September's World Cup.

"Alan always displayed humour and grace and he will be greatly missed. We send condolences to Alan's wife, Tanya, and the rest of his family as well as to his countless friends and the multitudes he entertained."

Thicke told MLB.com last year that he named his youngest son Carter, after former Blue Jays great Joe Carter and former Montreal Expos catcher Gary Carter.

"I was sitting in the bathtub," Thicke said. "We knew that we were having a boy and we were wrestling with a name and what would we do. And then I'm watching a documentary on the sports channel about Canadian baseball heroes ... and sure enough, Joe Carter, for hitting those home runs, and Gary Carter, being a great Expo catcher.

"And I said, 'Eureka!' Out of the tub and we have a name for the kid."

Joe Carter said Thicke shared that story with him when they met at a golf tournament a few years ago in Las Vegas. They became friends and Thicke often participated in Carter's annual charity golf tournament in the Toronto area.

"Our lives are better because of him," Carter said Wednesday from Kansas City. "My life is better because of him. I mean, he put a smile on my face. Those are things that I'll always remember." THE CANADIAN PRESS

CELEBS ON INSTA

Doherty opens up on fight

Shannen Doherty is giving an up-close look at her fight against breast cancer.

The former Beverly Hills, 90210 actress shared an Instagram photo Tuesday of herself in a hospital gown alongside her mother. She wrote that she was undergoing another day of radiation adding, "Today my mom came with me because Even though I'm so tired after, I'm going Christmas shopping!!!" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS;INSTAGRAM/THESHANDO

Manchester storms back with Screen Actors nods

NOMINATIONS

La La Land hits wrong note as Guild opts for Affleck and co.

La La Land may have hit all the right notes for the Golden Globes, but the Screen Actors Guild sung a different tune Wednesday, when Kenneth Lonergan's New England-set family drama Manchester by the Sea picked up the most nominations. Its leading four nods included best ensemble cast, best actor for Casey Affleck and best supporting performances for Michelle Williams and Lucas Hedges.

Barry Jenkins' coming-of-age tale Moonlight and Denzel Washington's August Wilson adaptation Fences followed with three each, including ensemble. They'll be competing with the fact-based NASA crowd-pleaser Hidden Figures and the family drama Captain Fantastic. Shut out of the coveted ensemble award was Damien Chazelle's candy-coloured musical La La Land, which scored nominations only for its leads, Emma Stone and London, Ont.-native Ryan Gosling.

Sophia Bush and Common announced the nominees early Wednesday morning in West Hollywood, California.

In the past, SAG nominees have served as helpful predictors of who will land nominations in the four Oscar acting categories.

While some categories looked generally as expected, like the supporting actress nods for Williams, Fences' Viola Davis, Moonlight's Naomie Harris, Lion's Nicole Kidman and Hidden Figures' Octavia Spencer, others were quite surprising.

In the lead actress category, Annette Bening failed to pick up a nomination for 20th Century Women. Bening had been an assumed lock for an Oscar nomination and had been considered a top contender against front-runners Natalie Portman (Jackie) and Stone (La La Land), both of whom were recognized. Instead, SAG nominated Emily Blunt for the adapted thriller The Girl on the Train, which scored tepid reviews from critics and had not been seen as a major awards contender. Meryl Streep (Florence Foster Jenkins) and Amy Adams (Arrival) were also nominated.

Lead actors nominated were Affleck, Gosling, Andrew Garfield (Hacksaw Ridge), Viggo Mortensen (Captain Fantastic) and Denzel Washington (Fences).

On the supporting side for actors, Moonlight's Mahershala Ali continues to dominate the category with another nomination. He'll be competing against Manchester's Hedges, Jeff Bridges for Hell or High Water, Dev Patel for Lion and Hugh Grant for Florence Foster Jenkins.

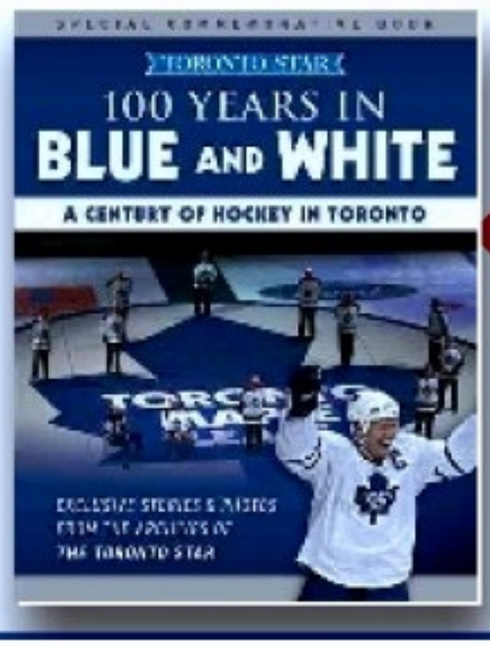
Also missing were nominations for Jeff Nichols' fact-based civil rights film Loving and its leads Ruth Negga and Joel Edgerton, as well as for French actress Isabelle Huppert, who has won many of the critics' awards for her performance in the edgy Elle.

On the television side, series newcomers The Crown, Westworld and Stranger Things all picked up three nominations each, alongside Emmys favourite The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story and Game of Thrones. Both Winona Ryder and Millie Bobby Brown will be up against one another in the same acting category for Netflix's Stranger Things.

The 23rd annual Screen Actors Guild Awards take place Jan. 29 from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michelle Williams was nominated for best supporting actress for Manchester By the Sea while Moonlight's Mahershala Ali also made the cut for supporting actor. HANDOUTS

CANADA'S GAME. TORONTO'S TEAM.



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In addition to builders, developers and a wide range of tradespeople, the industry employs everyone from urban planners and lawyers to marketers and designers and dozens more. Each of those construction cranes you see represent up to 500 jobs.

As the GTA continues to grow, so does its need for new homes. That means opportunities for people looking at careers in building, development or renovation. These careers include office work, jobs on construction sites, positions in sales offices and in many other well-paying professions. In 2015, people who work in the industry collectively earned $11.4 billion in wages.

BILD represents all facets of the industry and our 1,450 member companies include more than just builders and developers. Some of our members manufacturer and supply the materials used to build homes, some plan and prepare sites for development, and others assist purchasers in the home-buying process.

Each year BILD holds a number of award programs that recognize excellence in the industry. One of them is our Associate Awards, which recognize members for their quality of service, professionalism, leadership and innovation when working with builders or renovators. What makes this awards program special is that nominees are evaluated by their clients as opposed to a panel of judges. The Associate awards recognize members in three distinct categories, which reflect the diversity of our membership.

This year's Manufacturer/Supplier of the Year award was presented to Shipway Stair Ltd. for its exceptional communications, products and service.

The Trade Contractor of the Year award was presented to N. De Luca Plumbing. Their clients were very happy with how approachable, professional and hard-working their team is.

Avid Ratings Canada won the Service Professional of the Year award for the second time in three years. One of their past clients even said there is no better firm in the industry.

I'm very proud to work in an industry in which such a diverse group of professionals all work together to build complete communities in the GTA for people to live, work and play in.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

Dunpar Homes' newest addition to Mississauga, the Heritage Gate community. Townhomes are an attractive option for those looking for an upgrade from their condo but can't afford a single-family home. CONTRIBUTED

The townhome solution

CONDO TRENDS

Buyers think outside the detached box

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

It's a conundrum for growing urban families. What to do when you've outgrown your condominium and yet find yourself priced out of Toronto's skyrocketing detached home market?

As the price gap between GTA condominium suites and single-family homes widens, first-time buyers are finding it difficult to get a foothold into the market.

Townhomes are an increasingly popular housing form that fits the need, as more and more builders pivot towards infill developments in existing neighbourhoods. The townhome sits somewhere between a condo and a single-family home in terms of affordability and living space. And as the trend continues, market changes may very well lead townhomes to emerge as the single-family home of the future.

"Detached and semi-detached homes are seeing a much higher increase year-over-year in the price value than the condos are," says TheRedPin.com co-founder Rokham Fard. "So on a compound interest level, people are losing more on their assets or gaining more, depending on which side they are on."

"The interesting wedge in-between are the townhomes, either freehold or condo towns. The price point seems to be the most reasonable next step for condo owners who are generally young families."

One builder that specializes in freehold townhomes is Dunpar Homes. The family-run business is known for building high-quality communities in Etobicoke, Mississauga and Oakville.

Michael DiPasquale, Dunpar's VP of operations, says the company is seeing a high demand for this type of housing. "A lot of people are in these very small condos, and they're getting smaller and smaller. Once you meet somebody and get married or you want to move in together, people want decent space." he says. "Our towns range from 1,500 to 2,500 square feet. It's rare to find a condo that big."

Dunpar offers a common element arrangement that offers condo-like conveniences. "Homeowners are still responsible for the house, but the landscaping in front, snowplowing garbage pickup, is taken care of." says DiPasquale.

In Toronto's south Forest Hill neighbourhood, Circa's 3 Markdale townhomes sit at the edge of an established residential community by the Cedarvale Ravine. Six boutique condo towns have just been released. These units feature Scavolini custom-designed kitchen cabinetry and stainless-steel appliances, including a Bertazzoni natural gas range. Ceramic and stone or quartz bathroom finishes complement a deep soaker tub, solid core wood doors and a sliding door to the balcony.

REAL ESTATE

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North York: Seasons Condominiums in North York is part of the Concord Park Place master-planned community. Check out the new presentation centre at 1001 Sheppard Ave. E. Contact: 416-813-2999, concordseasons.ca

2 NEW RELEASE

Yonge and Eg: Whitehaus Condominiums is releasing a new collection of townhomes in the Yonge and Eglinton neighbourhood. Visit the sales centre at 3080 Yonge St., Suite 3056 to find out more. Contact: 647-344-1520, Whitehaus.ca

3 NOW REGISTERING

St. Lawrence: 75 on The Esplanade Condominiums will soon be joining the St. Lawrence neighbourhood. Register online for the opportunity to own in this 29-storey tower in the heart of the old city. Contact: 416-975-9975, 75esplanade@bakersales.info

DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

metro SPORTS

Bubba Watson might be adding a pink golf ball to go with his pink driver — and a green ball for the Masters

Matthews going back to where it all began

NHL

Leafs play Coyotes twice, visit Arizona next week

Back when Daniel Briere was putting up 283 points over 364 games as a dynamo centre for the Phoenix Coyotes, a young boy named Auston Matthews was one of his biggest fans.

Today the 19-year-old Matthews, who was born the year after the former Winnipeg Jets landed in the desert and were relaunched as the Coyotes, is the first real byproduct of the sun-splashed hockey community to make the NHL.

His childhood was not the hockey life of a kid growing up in Ontario or Alberta, but Matthews, the Toronto Maple Leafs' emerging centre, said it wasn't far off either.

"I was still waking up at six in the morning, but it was about 65 (Fahrenheit) and sunny outside. I was walking outside in shorts and flip-flops," Matthews said after practice on Wednesday afternoon. "To me it was just normal growing up there."

Matthews will face his favourite childhood team for the first time in Toronto on Thursday night before heading back home next week for his first NHL appearance at Gila River Arena, the rink he used to attend as a Coyotes fan.

He'll get to face off against longtime Arizona captain Shane Doan, one of the players he used to root for as a kid.

Some of Matthews' best memories from those days actually didn't involve the Coyotes at all, but their opponents. He remembers watching Alex Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby with awe, recalling with precision a pair of special goals both scored in Glendale.

5

Matthew is just the fifth Arizona native to play in the NHL.

Matthews was there rooting for the Coyotes, "but secretly you wanted to see something fun happen from those really special players."

Briere was the hometown hero though, the player Matthews just couldn't get enough of as a kid. He particularly loved the goal celebrations of the second-ever pick of the Coyotes franchise, how he'd get down on one knee with an emphatic fist-pump. Playing alongside one of Briere's sons growing up, Matthews actually got to know the two-time all-star.

"It's just funny kind of looking back at pictures with him when I was six, seven years old and then just how fast the time's flying by," said Matthews.

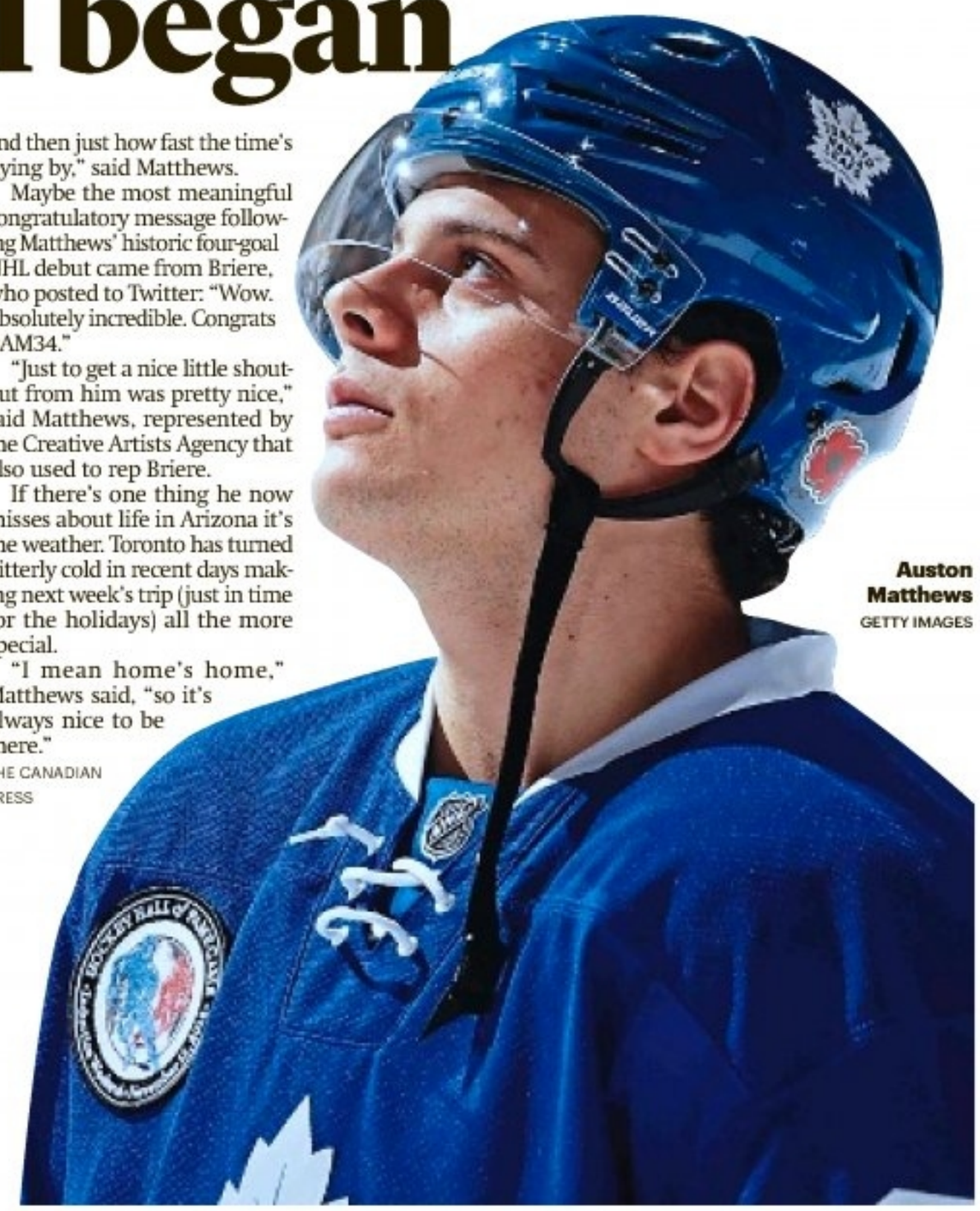
Maybe the most meaningful congratulatory message following Matthews' historic four-goal NHL debut came from Briere, who posted to Twitter: "Wow. Absolutely incredible. Congrats #AM34."

"Just to get a nice little shoutout from him was pretty nice," said Matthews, represented by the Creative Artists Agency that also used to rep Briere.

If there's one thing he now misses about life in Arizona it's the weather. Toronto has turned bitterly cold in recent days making next week's trip (just in time for the holidays) all the more special.

"I mean home's home," Matthews said, "so it's always nice to be there."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Auston Matthews GETTY IMAGES

NFL

Ryan has support of star receiver

Sammy Watkins has coach Rex Ryan's back.

The Bills receiver strongly voiced his support for Ryan by saying he has no interest in seeing the team change coaches for the second time in Watkins' three years in Buffalo.

Should the team hit the reset button, Watkins said it would put the Bills in a similar position to their next opponent, the winless Cleveland Browns (0-13).

Rather than rebuild through youth as Watkins said the Browns are currently doing, he would rather Buffalo move forward with the current group of coaches and players.

Watkins said it's his intention to stay in Buffalo "forever," and his sole objective is for Buffalo to win its final three games and convince management to retain Ryan.

Watkins spoke Wednesday at a time when Ryan's future is in question with Buffalo (6-7) in jeopardy of extending the NFL's longest active playoff drought to 17 seasons. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sammy Watkins GETTY IMAGES

Cesc states his case to maintain Chelsea's lead

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUNDUP

Spaniard sinks Sunderland as Liverpool move into second

Used sparingly by Chelsea during its long run of victories, Cesc Fabregas is providing significant reminders of his enduring value to the English Premier League leaders. Two weeks ago, it was Fabregas' raking pass to set up Diego Costa's goal that sparked Chelsea's come-from-behind win at Manchester City.

On Wednesday, it was the Spain midfielder's classy goal — a one-two with Willian before a composed finish from the edge of the area — that earned Chelsea a 1-0 win at Sunderland, a 10th straight victory in the league and six-point lead over Liverpool and Arsenal in the Premier League. "In football today, people forget very, very, very quickly who you are, and what you can do," Fabregas said. "Hopefully now I can get a run of games in the team."

This was Chelsea's third 1-0 win in its last five matches. In its 10 straight wins, Chelsea has only conceded two goals and this latest clean sheet was preserved by a stunning save by Thibaut Courtois off Patrick van Aanholt late in the game. It was a night when all of Chelsea's potential title rivals — Liverpool, Manchester City and Tottenham — won.

Adam Lallana scored two goals and set up another to inspire Liverpool to a 3-0 victory away to Middlesbrough as goalkeeper Simon Mignolet marked his return to the team with a clean sheet. Liverpool climb into joint second place with Arsenal.

City lost midfielder Ilkay Gundogan to a serious knee injury in a 2-0 win at home to Watford that brought mixed emotions for manager Pep Guardiola.

Goals by Pablo Zabaleta and David Silva ensuring City bounced back from consecutive losses to remain in fourth spot.

Paul Pogba opened the scoring and Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored an 88th-minute winner in a 1-2 away win at Crystal Palace for United, which has collected consecutive victories in the league for the first time since August.

United remain three points behind fifth-place Tottenham. Meanwhile, Christian Eriksen scored twice as Tottenham beat Hull 3-0, and Salomon Rondon scored a hat trick of headers to guide seventh-place West Bromwich Albion to a 3-1 win over struggling Swansea. Mark Noble's penalty earned West Ham a 1-0 win over Burnley. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

- Middlesbrough 0, **Liverpool 3**
- **West Ham 1,** Burnley 0
- Sunderland 0, **Chelsea 1**
- **Man City 2,** Watford 0
- **West Brom 3,** Swansea 1
- Stoke 0, Southampton 0
- Crystal Palace 1, **Manchester United 2**
- **Tottenham 3,** Hull 0

Chelsea's Cesc Fabregas, left, celebrates scoring the winner with his teammates Victor Moses, centre and Pedro against Sunderland at Stadium of Light. LAURENCE GRIFFITHS/GETTY IMAGES

NCAA

MLS trials ahead for Canadian trio

Three Canadians are on the initial list of 57 NCAA Division I players invited to Major League Soccer's player combine.

Forward Brian Wright of Ajax, Ont., Toronto midfielder Kwame Awuah and Chris Nanco of Brampton, Ont., were included on the combine roster released Wednesday by MLS.

Wright was a semifinalist for the men's MAC Hermann award, given annually to the top player in U.S. college soccer, after leading the America East conference in scoring with 27 points and ranking second in goals (10) and assists (7).

Awuah had two goals and seven assists for the UConn Huskies and was named to the American Athletic Conference first team. Nanco led Syracuse with 15 points and seven goals, including five game-winners. The invited players will showcase their skills in front of representatives from all 22 MLS clubs from Jan. 8-12 in Los Angeles. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Wilson in rehab after stroke

Ron Wilson, whose NHL coaching career included a four-year stint with the Maple Leafs, is expected to make a full recovery after a recent stroke, according to family and friends.

Wilson, 61, has reportedly begun rehabilitation and sent messages to friends saying he's improving. The Windsor, Ont. native, who coached more than 1,400 NHL games, received well wishes across the hockey world Wednesday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Reed hired as Als' new GM

He's been a player, an assistant coach and a head coach in the CFL. Now Kavis Reed will get to try his hand at being a general manager.

The Montreal Alouettes announced Wednesday that Reed has been hired as their new GM. He replaces Jim Popp, who was fired Nov. 7.

The Alouettes also removed the interim tag from head coach Jacques Chapdelaine's job title. THE CANADIAN PRESS

UFC

Dos Santos, Struve to face off in Halifax

Former heavyweight champion Junior Dos Santos will face Stefan (Skyscraper) Struve in the main event of a Halifax UFC card on Feb. 19.

The two big men first met at UFC 95 in February 2009 when Dos Santos won by first-round knockout.

Dos Santos (18-4) is ranked fourth among heavyweight contenders while the seven-foot Struve (32-8) is No. 11.

The six-foot-four former champion is coming off a decision win in April over Ben Rothwell, but has lost three of his last six. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Junior Dos Santos GETTY IMAGES

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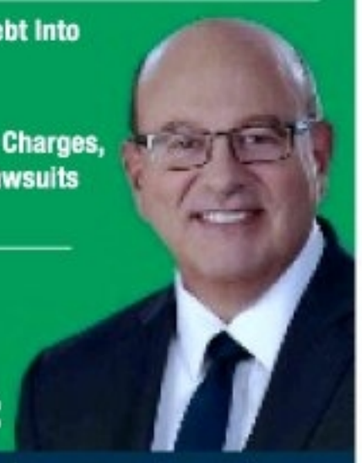

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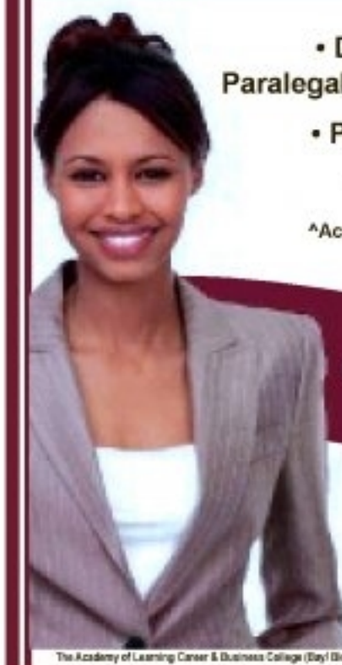

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Spicy Carrot Soup

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Amp up or chill out the spices in this carrot soup depending on how you or your family like it.

Ingredients
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1 onion chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic minced
- 1/2 inch of fresh ginger minced
- 1 teaspoon chili
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3 or 4 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 3 cups low sodium vegetable or chicken stock
- juice of half a lemon
- plain yogurt to garnish

Directions

1. Warm a glug or two of olive oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium heat.

2. Saute onions, garlic and ginger for about two minutes. Stir in spices and cook for another minute or so. Add carrots and stir well until they are coated lightly in oil and spice.

3. Add stock and increase the heat until it boils.

4. Reduce and allow to simmer for about 20 minutes or until carrots are quite tender.

5. Puree in small batches until the soup is quite smooth. You may need to add a little water or stock to thin it if it's too thick.

6. Stir in lemon juice.

7. Taste and check seasoning. Serve garnished with yogurt.

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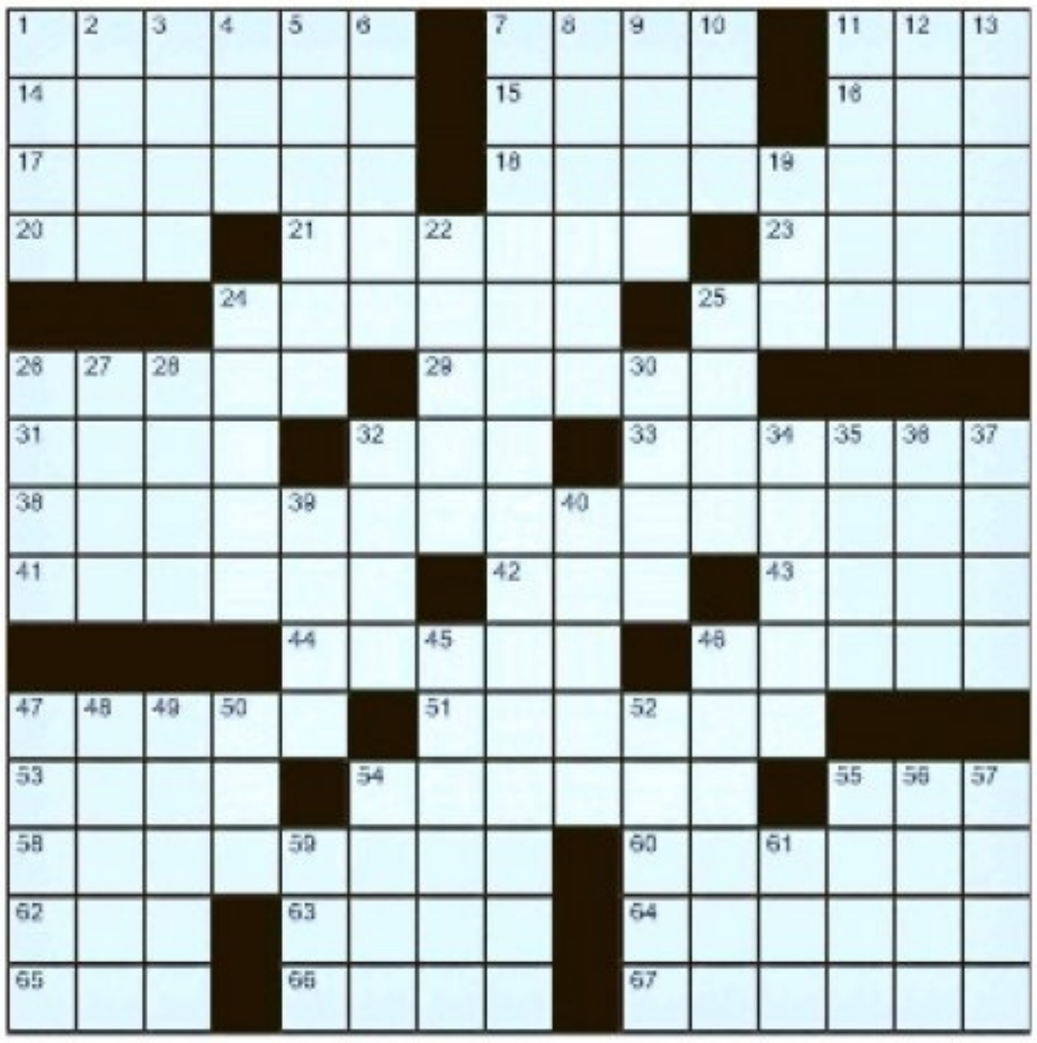
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Help get the hockey goal
7. Shindig
11. Pop-ups, e.g.
14. Less tight
15. Taxi alternative service
16. Orchestra __
17. Reunion attendees
18. Municipality in Manitoba, Norfolk __
20. Pine-__ (Cleaning brand)
21. Cleric with a wooden bench
23. Lotus position-doing class
24. The Enlightened One
25. Snake's toxin
26. Crouch
29. __ funds
31. Serve the wine
32. Favouring
33. Maple, in Quebec
38. Festive faux firs: 2 wds.
41. Doesn't catch, as a bus perhaps
42. Meshwork
43. Gather the crops
44. Male deers
46. Hoarse
47. The Matthew explorer John
51. 1981: "Being with You" by __ Robinson
53. Declare with certainty
54. Paper clip alternative
55. Sort of deposit
58. 'Crossroads to the Future' village in Alberta northeast of Calgary where Squirt the Skunk is the mascot
60. Practical
62. Work unit
63. Citizen of Ankara or Instanbul
64. Carpentry joint parts
65. Particular loaf
66. Pepsi holders
67. Showbiz legend Ms. Gabor: 2 wds.

DOWN
1. Sigher's word
2. Unaccompanied
3. Inner light
4. Philosophy
5. Lampoon
6. Gave it a go
7. On animal bone artifacts in archaeology, they indicate that tools were used, such as in the preparation of meat: 2 wds.
8. In a country far away
9. Pictured
10. Letters with Prince Charles' name
11. Cook's covering
12. Wild dog of Australia
13. "__ Heat" by Patti Page
19. Bionic part on Colonel Steve Austin
22. Specific-purpose committee 2 wds.
24. Mr. Karloff of scary movies
25. Green, in Quebec City
26. Internet junk
27. Ms. Spelling
28. Baseball stats
30. Money, informally
32. Boxer's hand formation
34. Range
35. Hive denizens
36. Jump
37. Catch a glimpse
39. Celebration
40. Ancient Greek creator of fables
45. Sailor's 'backward'
46. Peanut Butter Cups name
47. Tossed pole in Highland games
48. Office labels brand
49. Ecru
50. Alternatives
52. Butterfingers
54. Arctic seabird
55. "The Wizard __ __" (1939)
56. Bits of vocal acrobatics
57. Queen in Disney's "Frozen" (2013)
59. Long list ender
61. Disney animated movie deer

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Something unexpected will interrupt your home routine today. Small appliances might break down, or minor breakages could occur. It could be anything! Be a Boy Scout, and be prepared.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Pay attention to everything you say and do to avoid accidents today, because this kind of energy is in the air. But if you are mindful, you will be just fine.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Something having to do with your finances, your possessions or your cash flow will be interrupted. You might lose money or you might find something!

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today the Moon is in your sign, at odds with Uranus. This makes you independent and rather obsessed with things. Furthermore, everybody is restless and irritable.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Something occurring behind the scenes will have a domino effect and possibly interrupt your life or your plans today. Give yourself extra time so you have the space to deal with this.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You can expect to be surprised by a female acquaintance today. Possibly, you will meet someone who is really different or "out there."

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Relations with female authority figures are challenging today. This includes mom, bosses, judges, nurses and the police. Don't test your luck. Be courteous.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Your travel plans will be interrupted today. You can almost count on this. Double-check all important details, and allow yourself extra traveling time.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Stay in touch with your bank account and anything having to do with inheritances and shared property, because something might adversely affect these areas today. Make sure you know what's happening.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
A close friend or partner might throw you a curveball today. He or she might want more freedom or demand a change. Or she might take you out for dinner.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Expect interruptions at your workplace today. It could be anything: Computer glitches, equipment breakdowns and canceled appointments, as well as staff shortages.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Be extra vigilant today, because this is an accident-prone day for your kids. Keep your eyes peeled. Meanwhile, social plans might change.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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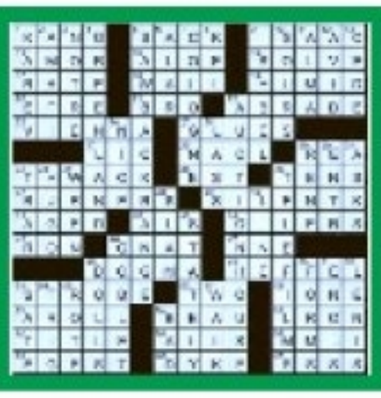

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